

1. (Twice Amended) A method for manufacturing an airtight vessel, comprising the steps of: activating a getter disposed in the vessel prior to sealing the vessel; and after activation of the getter, initiating a baking step to seal the vessel by fusing a part of an evacuation tube for evacuating the inside of the vessel while heating the vessel.

2. (Unamended) A method for manufacturing an airtight vessel according to Claim 1, wherein the evacuation tube is heated simultaneously with the heating step.

3. (Unamended) A method for manufacturing an airtight vessel according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of evacuating the inside of the vessel through the evacuation tube.

4. (Amended) A method for manufacturing an airtight vessel according to Claim 3, wherein the evacuation step is executed simultaneously with at least one of the getter activation step, the heating step and the baking step.

5. (Unamended) A method for manufacturing an airtight vessel according to Claim 4, wherein the evacuation step is executed simultaneously with at least the getter activation step along with being executed while the vessel is heated.

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6. (Unamended) A method for manufacturing an airtight vessel according to Claim 3, wherein the evacuation step is executed prior to the getter activation step.

7. (Unamended) A method for manufacturing an airtight vessel according to Claim 6, wherein the evacuation step is executed while the vessel is heated.

8. (Unamended) A method for manufacturing an airtight vessel according to Claim 1, wherein the getter is a nonevaporable getter.

9. (Amended) A method for manufacturing an airtight vessel according to Claim 8, further comprising the step of reactivating the nonevaporable getter after the baking step.

10. (Amended) A method for manufacturing an airtight vessel according to Claim 8, further comprising a getter flash step of activating an evaporable getter after the baking step.

11. (Unamended) A method for manufacturing an airtight vessel according to Claim 10, further comprising the step of degassing the evaporable getter by heating the evaporable getter prior to the getter flash step.

12. (Amended) A method for manufacturing an airtight vessel according to Claim 11, wherein the degassing step is executed prior to the baking step.

13. (Twice Amended) A method for manufacturing an image-forming apparatus using an airtight vessel containing a plurality of electron emission elements and image-forming members comprising the steps of:

activating a getter disposed in a vessel prior to sealing the vessel; and after activation of the getter, initiating a baking step to seal the vessel by fusing a part of an evacuation tube for evacuating the inside of the vessel while heating the vessel.

14. (Unamended) A method for manufacturing the image-forming apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein the evacuation tube is heated simultaneously with the heating step.

15. (Unamended) A method for manufacturing the image-forming apparatus according to Claim 13, further comprising the step of evacuating the inside of the vessel through the evacuation tube.

16. (Amended) A method for manufacturing the image-forming apparatus according to Claim 15, wherein the evacuation step is executed simultaneously with at least one of the getter activation step, the heating step and the baking step.

17. (Unamended) A method for manufacturing the image-forming apparatus according to Claim 16, wherein the evacuation step is executed simultaneously with at least the getter activation step along with being executed while the vessel is heated.

18. (Unamended) A method for manufacturing the image-forming apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein the evacuation step is executed prior to the getter activation step.

19. (Unamended) A method for manufacturing the image-forming apparatus according to Claim 18, wherein the evacuation step is executed while the vessel is heated.

20. (Unamended) A method for manufacturing the image-forming apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein the getter is a nonevaporable getter.

21. (Amended) A method for manufacturing the image-forming apparatus according to Claim 20, further comprising the step of reactivating the nonevaporable getter after the baking step.

22. (Amended) A method for manufacturing the image-forming apparatus according to Claim 20, further comprising a getter flash step of activating an evaporable getter after the baking step.

23. (Unamended) A method for manufacturing the image-forming apparatus according to Claim 22, further comprising the step of degassing the evaporable getter by heating the evaporable getter prior to the getter flash step.